



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

KEY FACTS

- Occurs rarely (three times in the 20th century—last in 1968)
- Novel virus to which there is no human immunity
- Healthy people and traditionally high risk populations may be at increased risk from serious complications
- Health care systems may be overwhelmed
- Vaccine probably would not be available in the early stages of a pandemic
- Effective antivirals may be in limited supply
- Number of deaths could be quite high
- Symptoms may be more severe and complications more frequent
- May cause major impact on society (e.g. widespread restrictions on travel, school and business closures, cancellation of large public gatherings)
- Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economy

For additional information visit: www.hhs.gov/flu